

The Hamblen House  
Main Street  
Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-356

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Hamb<sup>e</sup>lin House  
Main Street  
Chatham, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Fred P. Farrar  
R.F.D. #2  
Halstead, Pa.

Date of Erection: About 1770

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Very poor

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame  
construction

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, shingles

Historical Data:

There is considerable controversy about this structure. The present owner claims that this is the original home of Captain Stephen Day. As far as the survey has been able to ascertain, the building labeled the Stephen Day House, NJ-125, is the original Stephen Day House.

Mr. James Littlejohn, of Chatham, who drew the maps for Philhower's Brief History of Chatham claims that he lived with the grandson of Stephen Day who told him that it was part of the family tradition that the house at 62 Elmwood Avenue had originally stood where the Ogden Memorial Church now stands and was the home of his grandfather Stephen Day. As will be noticed in the account of the Stephen Day House, there are others who believe that the house on Elmwood Avenue is the original Stephen Day House and always stood where it now stands. Among those who believe this is Mr. Edward H. Lum, a real estate dealer of Chatham and a member of the Day family.

Mrs. Farrer also claims that the story of the visit of Lafayette to the Day House in Chatham refers to this property. However, Mr. Littlejohn claims that the story of Lafayette having been entertained in this house is unauthenticated.

The house in all probability was built on the Stephen Day property and was probably occupied by a member of his family. It has been much added to since it was built. Undoubtedly it is a pre-revolutionary or revolutionary structure. The exact date is not known. The main part was built last. The flat roofed addition in the rear is not original.

#### Bibliography:

History of Morris County, New Jersey  
Embracing Upwards of Two Centuries  
1710-1913 2 Volumes New York and  
Chicago, Lewis Historical Publishing  
Company, 1914


An Article in the Chatham paper  
for June 12, 1936 by Mrs. Farrar

Information secured from Mr. James  
Littlejohn by Robert A. Wyle, member  
of Morris County Squad

Information from Mr. Edward H. Lum  
secured by Michael Stillman, Supervisor  
for Morris County

  
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Supervising Historian

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.  
District Officer

10/21